

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

652

June 27, 2014

The Honorable Tom Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St. SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

The importance of broadband communications networks to America's economic development has never been more apparent. In our interconnected 21<sup>st</sup> century economy, job growth will depend on our ability to deliver faster and more reliable broadband to our businesses, our schools and our homes. Accordingly, local communities should have the opportunity to decide for themselves how to invest in their own infrastructure, including the options of working with willing incumbent carriers, creating incentives for private sector development, entering into creative public-private partnerships, or even building their own networks, if necessary or appropriate.

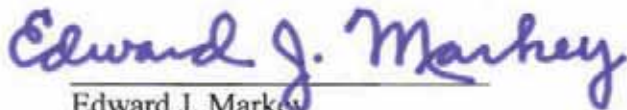
We are pleased by your recent comments about community broadband, particularly your assertion that municipal governments should not be inhibited if they wish to pursue the creation of their own networks. Communities are often best suited to decide for themselves if they want to invest in their own infrastructure and to choose the approach that will work best for them. In fact, it was the intent behind the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to eliminate barriers to entry into the broadband market and promote competition in order to stimulate more innovation and consumer choice. We urge you and your colleagues to utilize the full arsenal of tools Congress has enacted to promote competitive broadband service to ensure America's communities obtain a 21<sup>st</sup> century infrastructure to succeed in today's fiercely competitive global economy.

Around the globe, advanced broadband networks are stimulating innovation and investment. We believe that the countries that make affordable access to such networks most widely and quickly available to their businesses, institutions, and residents will be the ones that are most successful in the information-based global economy. The United States must remain one of those countries. Our nation cannot afford to fall behind or to close off viable options for its communities, especially those in underserved rural areas, to connect and prosper.

We ask that you respond to our inquiry within 30 days about what plans the Commission intends to pursue to make progress on community broadband.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey  
U.S. Senator



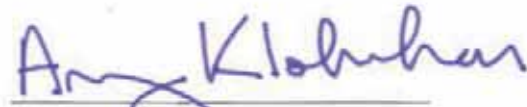
Mike Doyle  
U.S. Representative



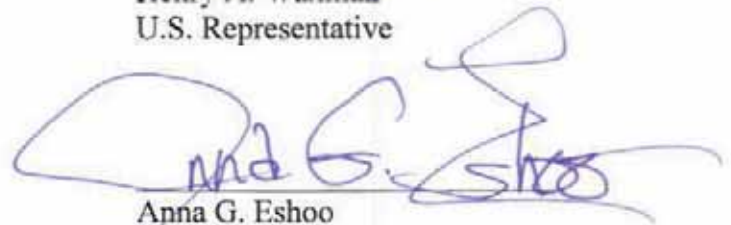
Al Franken  
U.S. Senator



Henry A. Waxman  
U.S. Representative



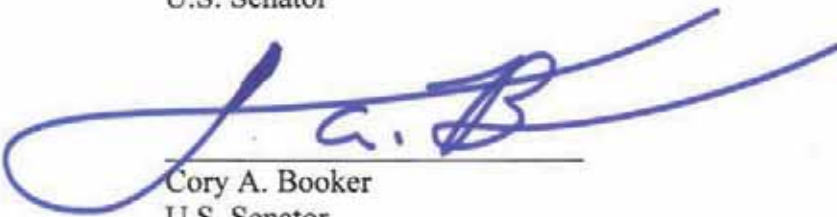
Amy Klobuchar  
U.S. Senator



Anna G. Eshoo  
U.S. Representative



Richard Blumenthal  
U.S. Senator



Cory A. Booker  
U.S. Senator



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

August 11, 2014

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate  
702 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

Thank you for your letter concerning the urgent need for deployment of advanced broadband networks in order to ensure our nation's future. I greatly appreciate your leadership on this vital issue. I wholeheartedly agree with you that high quality broadband will play a crucial role in our country's growth and prosperity in the years to come.

Broadband is a powerful platform that encourages economic growth and facilitates improvements in education, health care, public safety, and other key policy areas. This is particularly true for small and rural communities, where the availability of high quality broadband can be the difference between a future of growth and innovation or economic decline.

Private sector incumbent telephone and cable companies have invested billions of dollars in broadband deployment in the past decade. That investment has been of great benefit to our nation in many ways. However, that investment has not yet reached every corner of America. Around the country, communities have focused on the importance of ensuring that they receive the benefits of broadband, and some have concluded that investing in their own broadband efforts will provide more competition – along with the economic and social benefits that accompany competition – for their residents and businesses.

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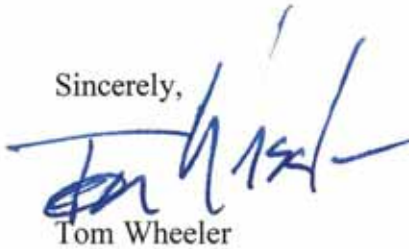
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We have received the petitions filed by EPB of Chattanooga, TN, and the City of Wilson, North Carolina, and are reviewing them. Any Commission decision on community broadband issues will be made only after a full opportunity for comment by all interested parties in an open

proceeding and a careful analysis of the specific factual, policy, and legal issues involved. I respect the important role of state governments in our federal system, but I know that state laws that directly conflict with critical federal laws and policy may be subject to preemption in appropriate circumstances. I recognize that federal preemption is not a step to be taken lightly without a careful consideration of all relevant legal and policy issues.

Thank you for your leadership on these crucial issues. Your views are very important and will be included as part of the Commission's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



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THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

August 11, 2014

The Honorable Cory Booker  
United States Senate  
141 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Booker:

Thank you for your letter concerning the urgent need for deployment of advanced broadband networks in order to ensure our nation's future. I greatly appreciate your leadership on this vital issue. I wholeheartedly agree with you that high quality broadband will play a crucial role in our country's growth and prosperity in the years to come.

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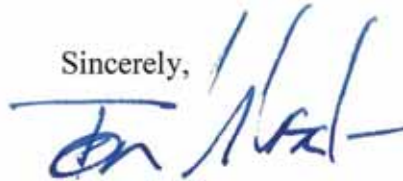
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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

August 11, 2014

The Honorable Mike Doyle  
U.S. House of Representatives  
239 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Doyle:

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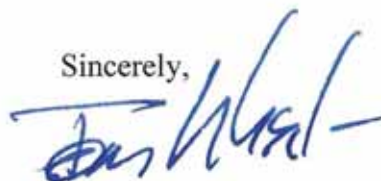
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THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

August 11, 2014

The Honorable Anna Eshoo  
U.S. House of Representatives  
241 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo:

Thank you for your letter concerning the urgent need for deployment of advanced broadband networks in order to ensure our nation's future. I greatly appreciate your leadership on this vital issue. I wholeheartedly agree with you that high quality broadband will play a crucial role in our country's growth and prosperity in the years to come.

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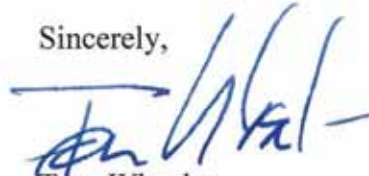
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Tom Wheeler



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THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

August 11, 2014

The Honorable Al Franken  
United States Senate  
309 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Franken:

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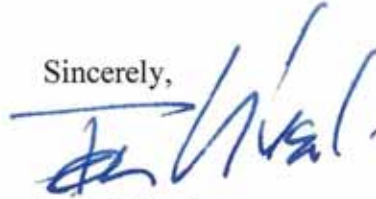
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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 11, 2014

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senate  
302 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

Thank you for your letter concerning the urgent need for deployment of advanced broadband networks in order to ensure our nation's future. I greatly appreciate your leadership on this vital issue. I wholeheartedly agree with you that high quality broadband will play a crucial role in our country's growth and prosperity in the years to come.

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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

August 11, 2014

The Honorable Edward J. Markey  
United States Senate  
218 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

August 11, 2014

The Honorable Henry Waxman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2204 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Waxman:

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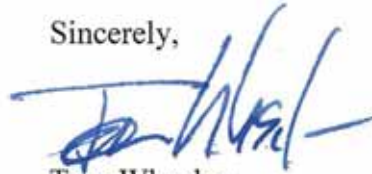
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